

MOCA

THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART 250 South Grand Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90012
tel 213/621-2766 fax 213/620-8674 moca.org

October 2005

Media contact:

John Foley Hindman (213/621-1750 <jhindman@moca.org>)

Statement Concerning Museum of Contemporary Art Ecstasy Exhibition

Installation by Artist Tatsuro Bashi Located in Front of City Hall

In an unprecedented collaboration with the City of Los Angeles, The Museum of Contemporary Art has installed a work by Japanese artist Tatsuro Bashi in front of the Los Angeles City Hall. Especially created for the exhibition *Ecstasy: In and About Altered States*, currently on view at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA (152 North Central), *Karifornia* (2005) is intended to change the way visitors perceive the living and working structures they encounter everyday. The work consists of an actual constructed bedroom, supported by a scaffolding structure, situated 60 feet above the ground--around the Los Angeles City Hall flagpole that bears the California state flag. Visitors enter the room by climbing a secured staircase where they see the state flag, which previously waved high above the heads of busy pedestrians in downtown Los Angeles, coming up through the floor and re-positioned at eye level among standard bedroom furniture.

In reviewing engineering plans for the work, questions related to its structure arose requiring further study and evaluation. Pending that evaluation, MOCA and the City have agreed that the "bedroom" be removed until a solution is reached. Margie Reese, General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, commented, "This fascinating piece by Tatsuro Bashi is an important contemporary artwork. We certainly believe this is a piece that would be of interest to a broad audience. Our commitment is to continue to work with MOCA and the appropriate agencies of the City to see what the options are for continuing to showcase this artwork."

###